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Atty. Docket No.: 14098/1013B PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Edberg, Stephen C.
Serial No.: 10/036,288
Filed: October 24, 2001
Entitled: "Detection of First Generation Environmental Sourced Microbes in an Environmentally-Derived Sample"

Examiner: Gitome
Group Art Unit: 1627
Conf. No.: 3574

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Response to Office Action

Sir:

This is filed in response to the Office Action mailed August 26, 2002 in the above-noted U.S. Patent Application. Please consider the following amendments and remarks.

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please replace the Title, lines 1-3 of page 1, with the following replacement Title:

METHOD OF DETECTING FIRST GENERATION ENVIRONMENTAL-SOURCED
MICROBES IN AN ENVIRONMENTALLY-DERIVED SAMPLE

Please replace the Abstract on page 16 with the following replacement abstract:

The invention relates to a method of detecting the presence or absence of a target microbe in a liquid sample, the method comprising: providing a powdered medium having one or more nutrient indicators and ingredients to support the growth of the target microbe, the one or more nutrient indicators being operable to alter a detectable characteristic in a medium/sample mixture when metabolized by the target microbes so as to confirm the presence or absence of target microbes in the sample, wherein the medium lacks a gelling agent and the medium is free of target microbes before mixing with a sample; providing a liquid sample; combining the powdered medium and the liquid sample to form a medium/sample mixture; and observing the mixture for the presence or absence of a detectable characteristic wherein the presence of the detectable characteristic results from a target microbe metabolizing a nutrient-indicator.